**Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS)**
**Standards, Protocols, Procedures**

| Standard Name: | **Emergency Management Talkgroups** | | Date Created: | | 10/24/2018 | |
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| Standard Policy # | **1.15.0** | **Section Title:** | **Interoperability Standards** | | Status | Approved |
| Approval Authority: | **ISICSB** | | Adopted: | **4/11/2019** | Reviewed: | **4/11/2019** |

## 1. Purpose or Objective

The purpose of this standard is to establish operational policy for use of the Iowa Emergency Management Talkgroup, IAEMTAC, and the six regional emergency management talkgroups— R1EMTAC, R2EMTAC, R3EMTAC, R4EMTAC, R5EMTAC and R6EMTAC. These talkgroups are shared resources that allow interoperability between Emergency Managers, their respective Emergency Operations Centers (EOC), and other key partners for the purpose of Emergency Management Coordination.

The intention of these talkgroups is to allow Emergency Managers to communicate with one another, connect EOCs, and Emergency Management Field Operations until another talkgroup is assigned, if needed. The talkgroup may be used for direct communication related to public safety and situational awareness purposes during an incident. The talkgroup may also be used for large-scale coordination during a disaster for regional resources, agencies, EOCs, etc., or to facilitate coordination between many different partners.

## 2. Technical Background

**Capabilities**

ISICS has the technical capability to facilitate wide area communications to assist with disaster response and recovery.

**Constraints**

Coordination and communication are vital for the success of the mission and safety of personnel.

### 3. <u>Operational Context</u>

Emergency Managers and their partners may need to coordinate operations, resources, etc., across a large multi-jurisdictional area of the state. Emergency Managers and their partners may need to utilize IAEMTAC, R1EMTAC, R2EMTAC, R3EMTAC, R4EMTAC, R5EMTAC and R6EMTAC talkgroups for ongoing daily business (event dependent), as well as operations and planning during an incident.

### 4. <u>Recommended Protocol/ Standard</u>

**Talkgroup requirements**

- It is highly recommended Emergency Management personnel at the state, county, and local levels ensure capability to access these channels/talkgroups, as well as those partners that routinely work with Emergency Management.

If an Emergency Manager or their partner needs to talk to another Emergency Manager or partner, they should identify themselves, their agency, and who they are calling by agency or name.

It is up to each agency Emergency Manager or partner to monitor the IAEMTAC, R1EMTAC, R2EMTAC, R3EMTAC, R4EMTAC, R5EMTAC and R6EMTAC talkgroups.

**Programming**:

- Each EMA should have access to all regional and statewide EMA talkgroups.

### 5. <u>Recommended Procedure</u>

These talkgroups shall be considered to be active on ISICS as of midnight on July 1, 2020. This sunrise date will allow agencies to modify programming codeplugs to phase in the update to ISICS talkgroups.

Agencies may use these talkgroups during an event or exercise if they are programmed into radios prior to July 1, 2020.

### 6. <u>Management</u>

The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) in coordination with the ISICSB and System Administrator will be responsible for ensuring compliance and use of these resources.